



Das Deutsche Echo

August 2008

Jahrgang 29/08

Ice Cream Social
 Sunday, August 3, 3-5 PM
 at the GAST Center

*Vanilla, Chocolate & Strawberry Ice Cream
 Cones, Sundaes, Banana Splits, Toppings, Cookies, Ice Coffee
 Music, Conversation and Fun Activities for the Children*

*Please make your reservation
 by Noon Friday, August 1
 call 744-6998 or e-mail Gast@tulsacoxmail.com*

Donations to defray costs will be appreciated

GAST Happenings

Handarbeitsgruppe Tue. at 10 AM	Oct 25 GAST Oktoberfest party	Apr 3	Stammtisch
Jul 25 Weinkellerabend	Nov 7 Stammtisch	May 8	Stammtisch
Aug 1 Stammtisch	Nov 28 Weinkellerabend	Jun 5	Stammtisch
Aug 3 Ice Cream Social	Dec 5 Christkindlmarkt	Jul 3	Stammtisch
Aug 22 Weinkellerabend	Dec 12 Stammtisch	Aug 7	Stammtisch
Sep 5 Stammtisch	Dec 13 Christmas party	Sep 7	Stammtisch
Sep 13 Western Party	Dec 14 Adventsfeier		
Sep 19 American Organ Society	Dec 31 New Years party		
Sep 26 Weinkellerabend	2009		
Oct 3 Stammtisch	Jan 2 Stammtisch		
Oct 5 German-American Day	Feb 6 Stammtisch		
Oct 15 Tulsa Oktoberfest	Mar 6 Stammtisch		

This page is sponsored by GAST Member Hildegard Schaffrin

...FROM THE GAST PRESIDENT

Summer is upon us and the daily high temperatures are approaching triple digits. What better time than now to have an afternoon of fun and Ice Cream. I am an ice cream connoisseur myself, and I am looking forward to trying some new flavors. This event can be enjoyed by all ages. So, please, bring the children and grandchildren. We have some special surprises in store for them.



Weinkellerabend continues through the summer. We had a nice turnout on June 20, a week earlier than usual because of a rental at the GAST Center. The menu was a little different (Mexican), but there was plenty of food, thanks to **Lois Voeller, Elam Blank** and several other members who brought salads and deserts. Check the calendar for the next Weinkellerabend. We especially like to encourage our new members to come to these informal get-togethers. It's a great way to meet and share some stories.

Another great way to meet people is to join one of our activity groups, such as the Gastsaenger (Choir), the Volkstaenzer (Folk Dancers) or the Blaskapelle (Brass Band). You may discover some talents you had forgotten about. Please call the Office (744-6997) or send an e-mail to gast@tulsacoxmail.com, if you are interested.

Do you enjoy organizing a party? Then you may be the right person to be our Social and Activities Chair. Lots of members will help, but we need someone with organizing skills to be in charge. Give me a call (357-9156) and I will tell you more about what is involved.



Wednesday, August 20
by 6 PM
scheduled for the Wednesday
after the Board meeting.
The Board meets every
second Wednesday
of the month
at GAST Center at 7 PM

Das Deutsche Echo

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It's not too early to think about Oktoberfest. **Leon Boggs** is our new Special Events Chair and we are in the process of forming a GAST Oktoberfest Committee. Let us know if you would like to serve on the committee or would like to help with the preparations. Tulsa Oktoberfest is the largest ethnic festival in the Tulsa Metropolitan Area and is recognized as one of the top 10 Oktoberfests in the country. This happens to be the 30th Oktoberfest in Tulsa. Many of our members have fond memories of those early days. And the fun continues!

I hope to see you at the Ice Cream Social. Until then,

Auf Wiedersehen

—Arnold Bieber

...from the Arts President

The summer lull in activity continues. Cultural and Education Committee Chairman **Charles Meyers** continues working with committee members **Fred Rother, Lois Voeller, Barbara Conrad, Billy Wideman, Doris Wicks** and myself. Please feel free to share with them any ideas for event improvements or additions that you may have.

Looking ahead, in September Movie Night, Kinderdeutsch, and Language Classes will resume and there will be an American Theater Organ Society concert. Planning is well underway on these and details will be forthcoming in next month's Echo.

October will bring the German-American Day celebration. Regarding this, a courtesy letter has been sent to the mayor of Celle confirming our invitation for him to be the speaker. Also, our GAST choir have agreed to sing the national anthems to open the program. The Council Oak Trio is scheduled to provide musical entertainment for the occasion. More information about them will be provided as it becomes available.

Early next year a program on the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift will be presented. Details about this will be covered in future columns. If anyone has some input they wish to give please let us know.

We have been made aware of a new possibility for a

spring program. It is the youth choir performing group from Celle. Details will be provided when available.

The Speakers Bureau activity usually picks up after the summer. Anyone interested in helping or joining the Speakers Bureau should call **Arnold Bieber** or the GAST Office.

There are still no new developments in regard to increasing the current number of eight Kinderdeutsch days per semester to ten days. This is still under consideration and will be mentioned in a future column when something is resolved.

The library will resume its scheduled opening again in September. If you wish to visit the library during the summer, please call the office during operating hours or me.

All Arts Association events are free and open to the public. Come enjoy them and remember to bring a friend.

—Jim Randall

Die Deutsche Konversationsrunde

*This popular program
will re-convene in September*

The Builder

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career. When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you."

What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.

So it is with us. We build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put up less than the best. At important points we do not give the job our best effort. Then with a shock we look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house we have built. If we had realized, we would have done it differently.

Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Build wisely. It is the only life you will ever build. Even if you live it for only one day more, that day deserves to be lived graciously and with dignity. The plaque on the wall says, "Life is a do-it-yourself project."

Who could say it more clearly? Your life today is the result of your attitudes and choices in the past. Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitudes and the choices you make today.

When Albert Einstein was making the rounds of the speaker's circuit, he usually found himself eagerly longing to get back to his laboratory work. One night as they were driving to yet another rubber-chicken dinner, Einstein mentioned to his chauffeur (a man who somewhat resembled Einstein in looks & manner) that he was tired of speechmaking.

"I have an idea, boss," his chauffeur said. "I've heard you give this speech so many times, I'll give it for you." Einstein laughed loudly and said, "Why not? Let's do it!"

When they arrive at the dinner, Einstein donned the chauffeur's cap and jacket and sat in the back

of the room. The chauffeur gave a beautiful rendition of Einstein's speech and even answered a few questions expertly.

Then a supremely pompous professor asked an extremely esoteric question about anti-matter formation, digressing here and there to let everyone in the audience know that he was nobody's fool.

Without missing a beat, the chauffeur fixed the professor with a steely stare and said, "Sir, the answer to that question is so simple that I will let my chauffeur, who is sitting in the back, answer it for me."

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## Do You Just Belong?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?  
 Or are you content that your name is on the list?  
 Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?  
 Or do you stay at home and criticize and knock?  
 Do you ever go and visit a member who is sick?  
 Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?  
 There's quite a program scheduled that I'm sure you've heard about.  
 And we will appreciate it if you'll come and help with hand and heart  
 Don't be just a member, dig in and do your part.  
 Think this over, member, you know right from wrong.  
 Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

—Author Unknown



**Sweet Potato says:**

A people that values its  
 privileges over its principles soon  
 loses both.  
 —Dwight D. Eisenhower



## Folkdancers travel to Germany

GAST folkdancers, 7 of them, are off to the BundesVolkstanztreffen of the Deutsche Gesellschaft for Volkstanz e.V. in Offenburg, in the beautiful Black Forest region of Germany. We will join 27 dancers from other groups in the US to represent the North-American Federation of German Folk Dance Groups at this event. "We" are the North-American Sector of the DGV; other sections are the Germans in Kazakhstan and Siberia, as well as the Germans in Brazil. There will be groups from other European and Middle Eastern countries at the 3 day festival from July 31 to August 3. Altogether there should be between 2000 and 2500 dancers. We intend to perform an American square dance medley and join others in traditional German community dances. We expect to learn some new dances at the workshops offered. Everyone pays their own travel expenses with GAST covering the festival registration and the 3 nights hotel. We wish to thank the GAST board for supporting the Folk Dancers in this endeavor.



On Friday, August 15 the GAST Folk Dancers will resume weekly practice sessions to learn some of these new dances as we prepare for a busy fall season. We will be accepting new members between August 15 and September 5. By then we will have our first booking at Choctaw, Oklahoma's Oktoberfest. Please consider joining the group.

If you have any questions please contact me. I will return from Germany August 13.

**Carol Wright**, 299-2839 or [d.c.w@cox.net](mailto:d.c.w@cox.net)



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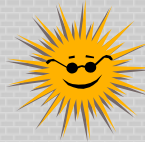
## Now Playing at the GAST Theater

An Erwin Jerchau Presentation



*This popular program  
will re-convene in September*

## The Sunshine Lady



Please call or E-mail me if you know of a GAST member who is ill. Also, please let me know if it is appropriate to send a sympathy card.

E-mail me at [book\\_worm34@hotmail.com](mailto:book_worm34@hotmail.com)  
or phone me at 357-9156

—Gwen Bieber

The GAST Board is considering a partial

sponsorship of a German or a German-International adult soccer team—not to exclude any of our members—if the interest is present. This idea can go in several directions. There are regular leagues in Tulsa with differing ability levels; there are also indoor leagues, coed leagues, and recreational leagues. There apparently is even an Oktoberfest soccer tournament where our team can compete. The team can consider

## Soccer Anyone?



entering the Beer Barrel Race on Saturday morning at the Oktoberfest grounds. In addition, our members may choose to come out and cheer for our team in their games. If you are interested in being a part of this idea, or if you know a soccer player or someone who would volunteer to be a coach, please call me at 245-1095 to register your interest.

—Ruth Obermark

# The GAST Weinkeller



The Pizzos and the Greiners cordially invite you  
to our next Weinkeller evening  
on Friday, August 22nd, 2008, starting at 5:30 pm.

Good food, good friends, good conversation!

We hope you will join us.

If you would like to bring some dessert, please call me at 455-3096.

Thanks. See you there?

—Helga Greiner

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The back page is sponsored by Kenneth Renberg



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Jahrgang 29/08



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A panoramic view of Köln (Cologne) Germany on the river Rhine with its Cathedral (*Kölner Dom*), which is the city's famous landmark and unofficial symbol. It is a Gothic church, started in 1248, and completed in 1880. The three crowns in its coat of arms symbolize the Magi (Three Wise Men) whose bones are said to be kept in a golden sarcophagus in Cologne Cathedral.

Courtesy Wikipedia